

# A Bear to Hug While Dad Is Away

Christmas will be especially poignant this year for members and families of the 139th Field Army Unit at the Rockville National Guard as approximately one-half of their group prepare for deployment shortly after the first of the year. Several staff members at the Rockville Correctional Facility will be included in that deployment.

Under the direction of Joe Anderson, Recreation Coordinator, the facility soon found a way to express their support to the members and families of the 139th. Twelve offenders began crocheting brown bears dressed in vests and hats of desert camouflage. In two weeks time they had created two hundred and twenty-eight bears for presentation to the families of the 139th.

Friday, December 21, Sgt. Eric Shanks arrived at the facility to receive the bears. Julie Clahan, Family Readiness Group chairperson will be distributing the bears to the families of the Unit. "People don't realize it's the little things that matter. Dad's over there, but I've got something to hold on to", Sgt. Shanks said as he received the bears from Mr. Anderson and Rita Steed, Community Service Director at the facility.



## About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.